

ON A TITANOSAUR SCAPULA FROM THE MARÍLIA FORMATION (UPPER CRETACEOUS, BAURU GROUP) IN CAMPINA VERDE TOWN, MINAS GERAIS

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Herein we present a partial left sauropod scapula collected from the Echaporã Member (Marília Formation) outcropping aside the road BR-364 between Campina Verde and Gurinhatã towns. All bone surfaces bear deep excavations denoting the action of scavengers and long exposition before burial, the material is well preserved, if partial, and is housed at Museu de Biodiversidade do Cerrado-UFU. The proximal end is 28 cm wide, and estimated to have been no more than 30 cm if complete. The preserved length of 38 cm is estimated as representing around two-thirds of the complete length. The scapular blade is 14 and 12 cm across the wider distal portion and the narrower proximal one, respectively. The margin of the acromion is damaged, but does not seem to extend anteriorly to the coracoid articulation. It has a squared outline, therefore distinct of Lithostrotian titanosaur *Muyelensaurus* or the longkosaurian *Mendozasaurus*. The acromion is noticeably concave laterally, forming a wide fossa for the m. deltoideus scapularis, bounded posteriorly by a strong deltoid crest. The glenoid length is shorter than the coracoid articular surface, is posteroventrally oriented, deflected medially and tapered caudally. At the posterior base of the blade lies a prominent tubercle similar to that seen in the basal african somphospondyli *Angolatitan*, and possible origin of m. triceps longus. The posteroventral edge of the scapula is straight, while the anterodorsal is sigmoid. The anterodorsal curvature is outlined by a notch at the base of the scapular blade but it is moderately shallow, causing a soft divergence between both edges, very similar as seen in the saltasauroid titanosaurs *Saltasaurus* and *Isisaurus*, and distinct of the stronger sigmoidal outline due to a deeper and stepped notch as

seen in other saltasauroids, as *Neuquensaurus*. Medially at such notch there is a strong tubercle similar to the dorsal prominence on the inner face of the scapula of saltasauroids *Aeolosaurus*, *Neuquensaurus* and *Saltasaurus*, and lying at the same position of the origin of the crocodylian m. levator scapulae. The characters on this specimen are indicative of a saltasauroid identity and its dimension suggests an animal at least 20 meters long. [SESu/MEC].

Sessão:
Bacia Bauru: biota e ecossistemas

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Paleontologia em Destaque

Boletim Informativo da Sociedade Brasileira de Paleontologia

Edição Especial - Julho/2017

XXV Congresso Brasileiro de Paleontologia Ribeirão Preto-SP

17 a 21 de
Julho de 2017

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Boletim de Resumos